



Department of Justice

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COLUMBUS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

COLUMBUS – Jonathan Brown, age 33, of Columbus pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of possession of child pornography. Canadian Customs Officers found pornographic images on Brown's computer when he tried to cross the border in June, 2007.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Brian Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Gregory L. Frost.

According to a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Canadian officials contacted ICE agents after the Canadians arrested Brown. ICE agents searched Brown's north Columbus apartment where they seized a computer and peripheral equipment. Forensic analysis found almost 2,000 images of child pornography and almost 200 digital movies containing child pornography. Agents also seized still photos and photo albums of clothed eight- to 11-year old boys taken at various campgrounds where Brown worked or were taken at public events of what appeared to be strangers to Brown.

Brown pleaded guilty in Canada and after serving his sentence, was deported to the United States and immediately taken into custody by ICE agents.

Brown faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000 and at least five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release. Brown will also have to register as a sex offender wherever he lives after his prison sentence ends. Judge Frost will set a date for sentencing. Brown remains in custody.

"Prosecuting people who prey on children remains a top priority for the Department of Justice and for law enforcement agencies who work with us," Lockhart said. "Those who possess child pornography are hazards to the community because they create a market for those who would abuse children by creating the material."

“Mr. Brown was brought to justice through the cooperative efforts of ICE and our colleagues from the Canada Border Services Agency” said Moskowitz who supervises the ICE Office of Investigations for Ohio and Michigan. “ICE will continue to work in conjunction with our international partners and the U.S. Attorney's Office to protect our communities from those who exploit the most vulnerable among us.”

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Lockhart commended the investigation by ICE agents and Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah A. Solove, who prosecuted the case.

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